

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04850 180602 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /128 W
----- 097208

R 180635 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1317

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4850

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: SON SANN'S ACTIVITIES

1. FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK SON SANN SPOKE TO A WELL- ATTENDED MEETING AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON MAY 16 AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT HE MIGHT SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE GKR AND THE INSURGENTS. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND CONSIDERABLE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HIS EFFORTS, BUT WARNED HIS HEARERS NOT TO EXPECT EARLY RESULTS. NONE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL COULD ACHIEVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OTHER SIDE, HE CLAIMED.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE OFFICIAL CONSULTED AT PARTY HEAD-QUARTERS SON SANN ALSO URGED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THE PARTY LEADERS REFUSED TO
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04850 180602 Z

CHANGE THEIR STAND UNLESS HE WERE PRIME MINISTER. PARTY
PRESIDENT CHAU SAU, A GREAT ADMIRER OF SON SANN, GAVE
A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION, SAYING THAT SON SANN HAD

MERELY INQUIRED WHY THE PARTY HAD NOT JOINED BUT DID
NOT DISPUTE THE PARTY'S EXPLANATIONS. SON SANN EXPRESSED
HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO CHAU SAU.

3. SON SANN HAS ALSO ASKED THE SOCIO- REPUBLICAN PARTY
TO ARRANGE QTE CONTACTS WITH THE PEOPLE UNQTE UNDER ITS
AUSPICES.

4. COMMENT: SON SANN TELLS US THAT HE ALREADY HAS THE
GO- AHEAD OF THE HIGH POLITICALCOUNCIL FOR HIS EFFORTS
TO LAUNCH NEGOTIATIONS WITH GRUNK/ FUNK, BUT THAT IT IS
ONLY A QTE 500 RIEL BILL UNQTE, WORTHLESS OUTSIDE
CAMBODIA. SON SANN SAYS THAT WHAT HE NEEDS IS QTE
TRAVELLER'S CHECKS UNQTE, IN THE FORM OF INDEPENDENT
EVIDENCE THE PEOPLE WANT PEACE AND SUPPORT HIM AS
PEACE- MAKER.

5. SON SANN HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY ACTIVE SINCE HIS
ARRIVAL HERE MAY 7, CONTACTING THE ENTIRE RANGE OF
PHNOM PENH POLITICIANS. HE SAYS HE WILL RETURN TO
FRANCE AT THE END OF THE MONTH FOR A CURE IN THE PYRENEES
AND POSSIBLY A HERNIA OPERATION. IF HIS FIRST SOUNDINGS
WITH GRUNK/ FUNK REPRESENTATIVES INSURANCE GIVE SOME
ENCOURAGEMENT, HE WOULD COME BACK TO PHNOM PENH IN
JULY FOR FURTHER CONTACTS, AND THEN TRY TO GO TO PEKING.
SWANK

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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EA
HONG KONG
JEC PARIS
PARIS
SAIGON

SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE

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